

February 13, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers.

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Internet has become an increasingly important tool for businesses of all sizes, and access to advanced telecommunications services are now in demand more than ever before. It is important, therefore, that companies providing these services all compete on a level playing field – they must all be held accountable to equal regulations.

Providers of telecommunications services, whether over cable or phone lines, must face the same regulations; otherwise, one company has an unfair and distinct advantage over the other company, creating a false perception of competition. And only fair and true competition will bring new technologies at the most competitive prices to consumers throughout California.

I encourage you and your fellow Commissioners to take a careful approach to the current Triennial Review proceeding. We encourage the FCC to eliminate the current unbundling rules that are harming our nation's telecommunications industry. The current rules have formed a distorted market that over time will undoubtedly cripple America's telecommunications industry – an industry that plays a crucial role in our national economy.

The FCC needs to take a forward-looking approach and create a regulatory framework for the telecommunications process that will allow for long-term and sustainable competition...not a short-term, fleeting fix. Can our nation's economy handle the crash of another technology sector? We hope we don't have to find out.

Sincerely,

Bobby Kahn
Executive Director
Madera County Economic Development Commission

CC:
Commissioner Abernathy
Commission Adelstein

Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps